

Message Text

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A/J:HLEVIN (DRAFT)
EUR/WE:CHABIB (DRAFT)
S/S - MR. GAMMON

----- 084150

R 272345Z SEP 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS
INFO USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 193125

EXDIS

E.O.LL652:GDS
TAGS:PFOR, CH, FR
SUBJECT: JOBERT'S COMMENTS ON PRC VIEWS TOWARD JAPAN

REFERENCE: PARIS 24959 (NOTAL)

1. DEPARTMENT NOTES THAT SEVERAL POINTS IN JOBERT'S ACCOUNT OF TALKS WITH CHOU DO NOT CORRESPOND WITH OUR OWN UNDERSTANDING OF CHINESE VIEWS. THIS IS PARTICULARLY TRUE OF CHINESE VIEWS CONCERNING JAPAN (PARA 7 OF REFTEL).

2. JOBERT REPORTS THAT CHINESE "WOULD EVEN WELCOME JAPANESE REARMAMENT BECAUSE OF BURDEN THIS WOULD PLACE ON JAPANESE ECONOMY." OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT PRC CONTINUES TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF JAPANESE REARMAMENT. WHILE THEY HAVE IN PAST YEAR PORTRAYED PRESENT LEVEL OF JAPANESE SELF-DEFENSE FORCES IN POSITIVE LIGHT, CONFIDENTIAL

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CHINESE HAVE DRAWN CLEAR DISTINCTION BETWEEN PRESENT STATE OF SELF DEFENSE FORCES AND "REARMAMENT" AND HAVE NEVER TO OUR KNOWLEDGE SAID THEY WOULD WELCOME REARMAMENT. RATHER THAN REARMAMENT RESTRAINING THE ECONOMY, THE CHINESE

VIEW HAS BEEN THAT "ABNORMALITIES" IN THE JAPANESE ECONOMY
COULD BECOME ONE FACTOR ENGENDERING REARMAMENT.

3. AT ANOTHER POINT, JOBERT REPORTS THAT CHINESE ARE
CONCERNED THAT US WILLINGNESS TO JOIN JAPANESE IN JOINT
VENTURES IN SIBERIA WAS ENCOURAGING JAPANESE TO UNDERTAKE
PROJECTS THEY WOULD NOT UNDERTAKE WITHOUT US PARTICIPATION.

WE BELIEVE CHINESE VIEW IS THAT SINCE JAPANESE SEEM
DETERMINED TO PROCEED WITH TYUMEN PROJECT, IT IS BETTER
TO HAVE US JOIN JAPANESE IN HOPE THIS WILL REDUCE ANY
LEVERAGE MOSCOW MIGHT GAIN OVER TOKYO BY BECOMING ONE OF
JAPAN'S IMPORTANT SOURCES OF OIL.

4. DEPARTMENT NOTES THAT AMB EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM RE
CHINESE VIEW ON BOTH THESE POINTS. IN SENDING ALONG
OUR UNDERSTANDING OF CHINESE VIEWS, WE LEAVE IT TO EMBASSY'S
DISCRETION WHETHER AND AT WHAT LEVEL TO DISCUSS THESE MAT-
TERS FURTHER WITH QUAL. KISSINGER

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